Dhivehi

Multivaluation @ Frankfurt

September 24, 2018

1 Language Information

- Source: Cain and Gair (2000)

- Glottlog: http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/dhiv1236

- ISO-identifier: div

- Speakers:

- Location: Maldives

- Geneology: Indo-European > Indo-Iranian > Indo-Aryan > Dhivehi-Sinhala > Dhivehi

2 Verbal Morphology

Dhivehi has a person distinction between third person and non-third person (I, you, we, you.PL). The third person is unmarked, the marker for non-third person is *-n/-m/-mu*.

3 Conjunction

Coordination in noun phrases is marked by *-ā*. This marker attaches to every head noun in a series of nouns. The coordinated noun phrases indicate location, direction, accompaniment, and topic.

(1) fālam-ā   gāt
    jetty-CNPM close
    'near the jetty' [Cain and Gair, 2000, p. 34]

(2) aharenn-ā dimāy-aš
    I-CNPM   direction-DAT
    'towards me' [Cain and Gair, 2000, p. 34]

(3) avaš-ā hama
neighborhood-CNPM equivalent

'to the edge of the neighborhood' [Cain and Gair, 2000, p. 34]

(4) bah-ā medu
language-CNPM middle

'about the language' [Cain and Gair, 2000, p. 35]

(5) de-mīhunn-ā eku
two-people-CNPM together

'with the two people' [Cain and Gair, 2000, p. 35]

Dhivehi has a 'conjunctive participles' that end in *-gen* or *-fā/-fai*. These participles indicate an activity that preceded the activity of the matrix verb.

(6) riyāz fot hifai-gen aī
Riyaaz book grab-SUC came

'Riyaaz grabbed the book and came.' [Cain and Gair, 2000, p. 35]

(7) aharen reḍiyō bahaṭṭa-fā aī
I radio put(vert.).PRT-SUC came

'I put up the radio and came.' [Cain and Gair, 2000, p. 35]

4 Disjunction

nuvata and *nūnī* 'or' are the markers of disjunction. *nuvata* indicates that either conjunct is possible, while *nūnī* means 'either x or y'.

(8) kāsidu-akī māle atoḷu-ge kāši koṣāru nuvata divehi rukuge
Kaashidu-EG Male atoll-GEN coconut storehouse or Dhivehi coconut
bagīccā
tree.GEN garden

'Kaashidu is Male atoll's coconut storehouse or (its) garden of Maldivian coconut trees.' [Cain and Gair, 2000, p. 35]

(9) ahann-akī jinni-ek-ē nūnī furēta-ek-ē nūnī den kalē hī
I-EG jinni-INDF-EMPH or monster-INDF-EMPH or then you thought
kurā komme bāvat-eg-ge ves eccekē
do.RPRT any type-INDF-GEN also thing.INDF-EMPH

'I am a jinni, or a devil, or anything that you think I am.' [Cain and Gair, 2000, p. 35]

5 Postpositions

The postpositions in Dhivehi are locative nouns inflected with various case endings. Here is a list with the most commonly used postpositions:

1. *matī-gā* 'on top of' or 'top-LOC'

2. *medu-gā* 'in the middle of' or 'middle-LOC'

3. *tere-in* 'among' or 'interior-INS'

4. *menuvī* 'apart from'

5. *kuren* 'from'

6. *ṭakai* 'for (BENE)'

References

Cain, Bruce D. and James W. Gair (2000). *Dhivehi (Maldivian).* München: Lincom Europa.